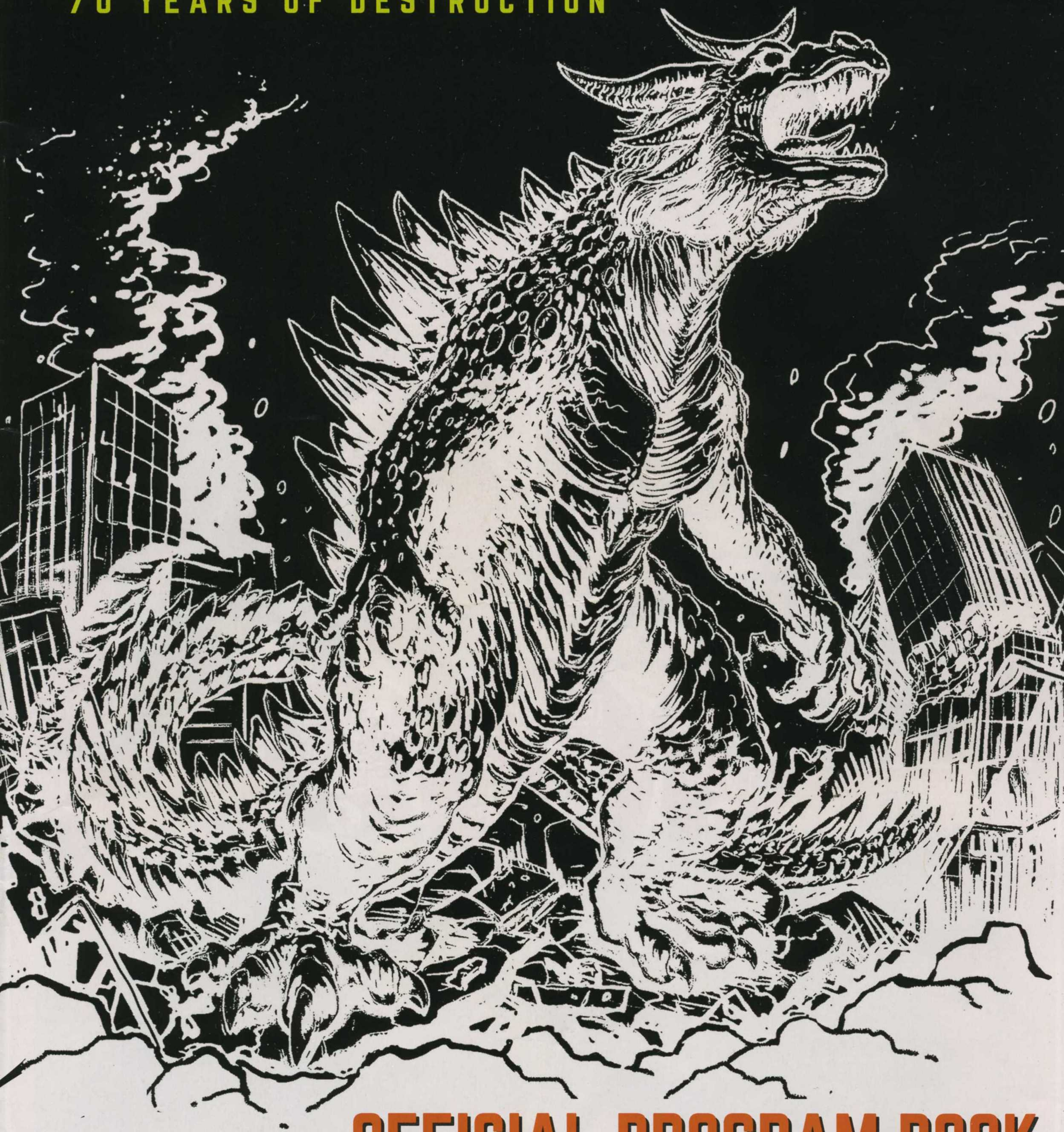
G-FEST XXIX

70 YEARS OF DESTRUCTION



OFFICIAL PROGRAM BOOK

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JULY 12-14, 2024 ------ ROSEMONT, ILLINOIS

TAKUJI YAMADA - ALLAN HENRY - RIE OTA - JAMES GROMAN - TOSHIO MIIKE - JEFFREY ANGLES

BEAST OF THE East Collectibles

The one stop shop for Japanese toys & pop culture collectibles.

WELCOME!

Dear G-FESTers,

This year marks an extraordinary milestone in the rich history of Godzilla! As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the King of the Monsters' debut, we are thrilled to have you join us for what promises to be the biggest and best G-FEST yet.

Needless to say, this has been an incredible year to be a Godzilla fan. Celebrating the 70th anniversary of Godzilla's debut in 1954, the year has been packed with exciting events, new releases, and commemorations. Highlighting the year was the highly anticipated release of "Godzilla Minus One," a groundbreaking addition to the franchise that netted the Big Guy his first ever Oscar win for Best Visual Effects. "Minus One" revisited Godzilla's origins with a fresh perspective. Set in post-war Japan, the film provided a gritty, emotional narrative that resonated deeply with fans and critics alike, showcasing the enduring relevance of Godzilla's themes. Then came "Godzilla X Kong: The New Empire," a sequel that further expanded the MonsterVerse and thrilled audiences with its epic kaiju battles and deepened lore.

There's something incredibly joyful about getting to share something you love with others. The warm reception of these films has created an even bigger opportunity to connect with others over Godzilla. As the fandom grows, G-FEST is growing along with it. Some major changes we are excited about this year include not one but two dealer's rooms - Kaiju World and Kaiju Island. The costuming thread is expanding to include cosplay meet-ups for the first time ever, and individual threads like the modeling room and Dojo Studios have a stacked schedule of their very own panel programming tailored to their thread. This year's additions reflect our commitment to creating an inclusive and engaging environment where every fan can find something they love.

The G-FEST team also grew this year with two new members joining our committee. Jonathan Hernandez heads up the Mecha G Arcade, and Alaena Gavins, a longtime fixture in Dojo Studios, added official social media coordinator to her title. Their passion and fresh perspectives are sure to bring even more excitement and innovation to our event.

Thanks to our incredible committee, whose tireless efforts have brought G-FEST to life year after year. Your passion, creativity, and dedication are the heart and soul of this convention, and this wouldn't be possible without all that you do. To our returning G-FESTers, you have helped shape the G-FEST community into what it is today. To all the newcomers joining us for the first time, we extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome. We're thrilled to have you with us.

I can't wait to spend this weekend together, celebrating the legacy and the future of the King of the Monsters!

With kaiju-sized gratitude,

Payton Lees

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Payton Lees - Chairperson
J.D. Lees - Founder
Martin Arlt- Sessions Organizer
Paul Gavins - Dojo Studios
Jeff Horne - In-House TV, Film Festival etc.
Stan Hyde - Model thread & display
Jonathan Hernandez - Mecha-G Arcade
Dave Nunes - Vendor's rooms & charity drive
Eric Mortensen - Registration
Sue Matzke - Minya's Place
Andy Steele - AV Services
Steve Pazenski - Art display
Alaena Gavins - Social Media Coordinator

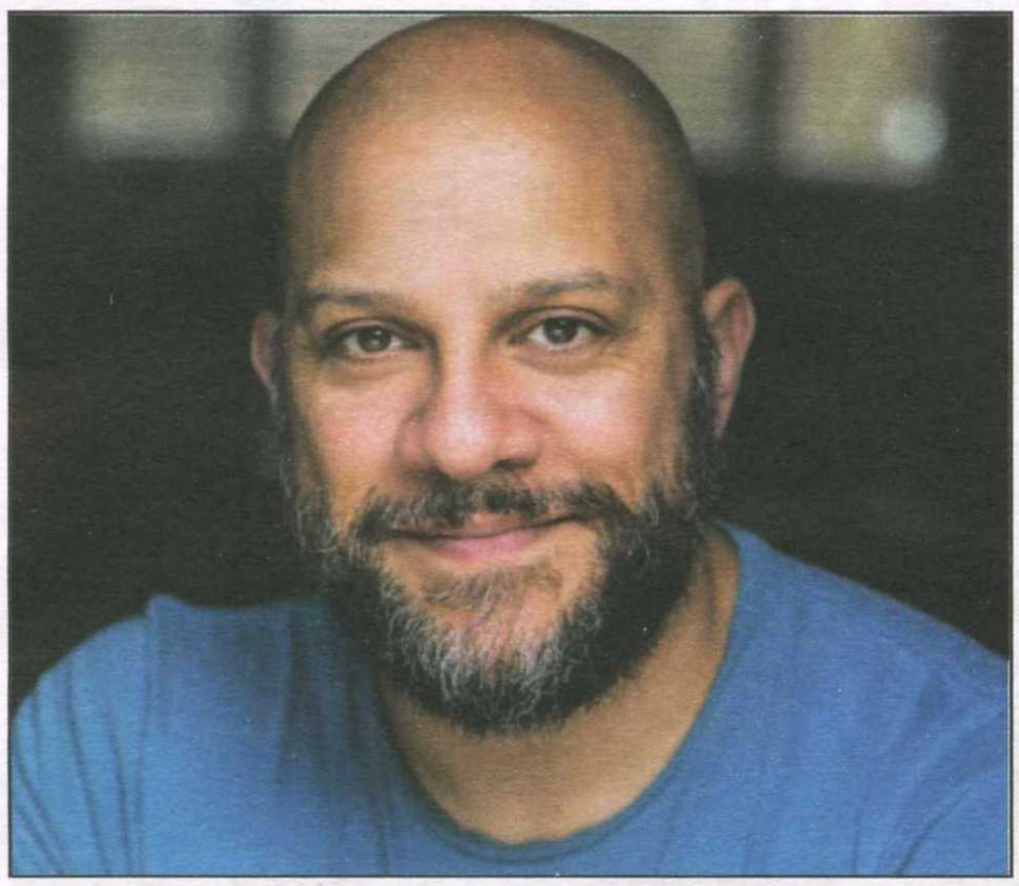
SPECIAL GUESTS

RIE OTA

Rie Ota, born in 1978, started her journey in Japanese live stage entertainment straight out of high school. Initially part-time, she became a beloved female stunt actor in Sentai hero shows. Despite her height of 4'9", she thrived, especially in roles like Baragon in "GMK" (2001), making her the FIRST female suit actor in Toho's Tokusatsu series. She also shone on the live stage, portraying characters like Chibi Moon in "Sailor Moon" and GAO White in "Power Rangers Wild Force." Ota's career showcases resilience and creativity, inspiring actors and fans in the world of Tokusatsu.

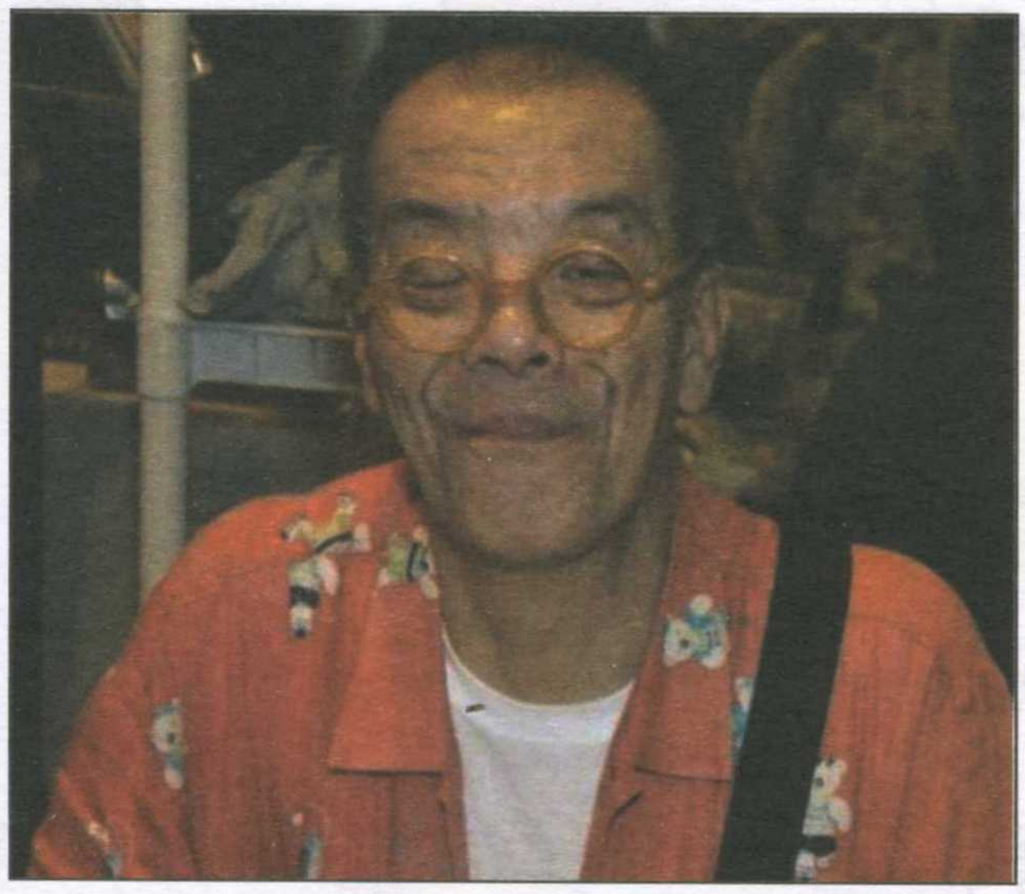
TOSHIO MIIKE

Toshio Miike, a distinguished figure in Tokusatsu cinema, has significantly influenced iconic productions such as Godzilla, Gamera, and Power Rangers throughout his illustrious four-decade-long career. Renowned for his expertise as a Special Effects Director and Art Designer, Miike's dedication extends beyond visual effects. He is deeply committed to preserving the genre's heritage, undertaking restoration efforts for future generations. His versatility shines through in collaborations on renowned films like "Kill Bill Vol. 1" and "Evangelion: 2.0 You Can (Not) Advance," showcasing his impact and versatility within the broader entertainment industry.



ALLAN HENRY

Allan Henry, a versatile actor, stuntman, and motion capture performer, has made a significant impact in entertainment over the past decade. Known for iconic roles like Kong in "Godzilla Vs Kong," Cokey the bear in "Cocaine Bear," and contributions to motion capture in "Planet of The Apes," he showcases dedication and skill. His versatility shines in the Marvel and DC Universes, and his stunt work, dating back to "The Hobbit," further cements his reputation as a dynamic force in the industry.

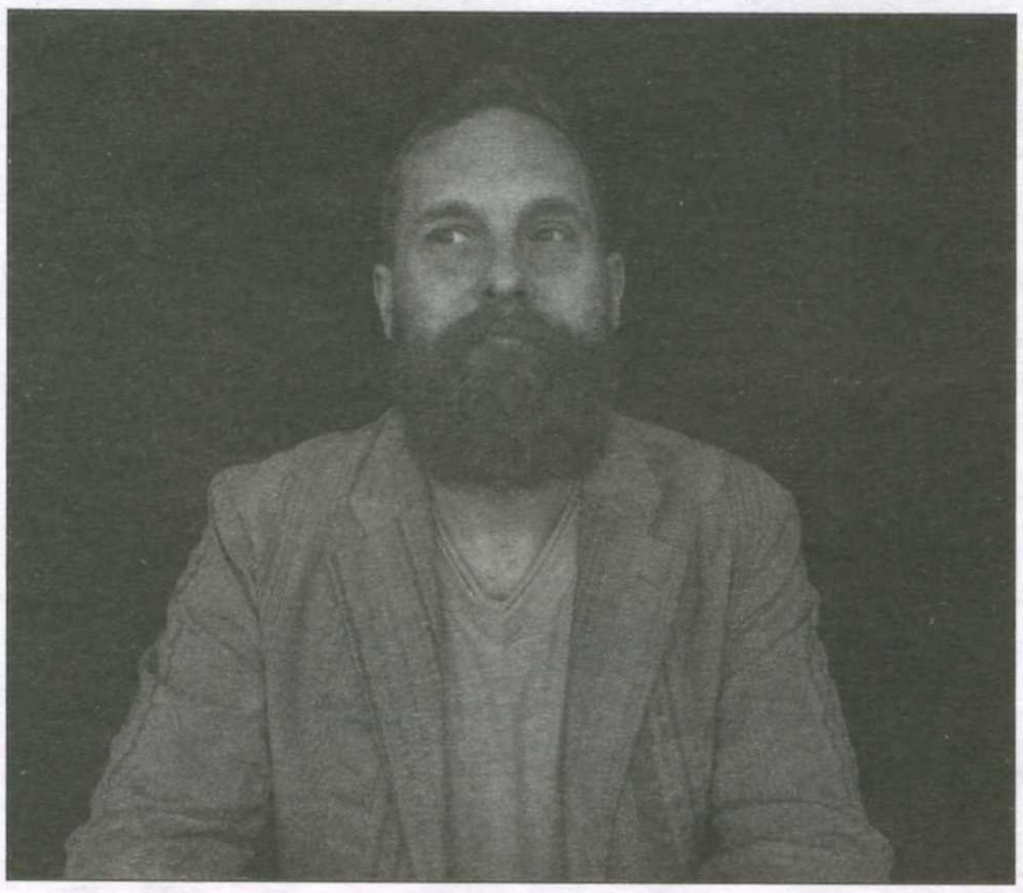


TAKUJI YAMADA

Takuji Yamada, born in 1959 in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka, is a revered figure in modeling, particularly known for diorama arts depicting Showa era scenes. He honed his craft through competitions, earning titles like "The king of pro-modeler" and "The king of diorama." His international recognition includes a gold prize at Euromilitaire in 1995. Yamada's influence extends through exhibitions across Japan and global showcases. In 2011, he became an ambassador for Hamamatsu city, and his massive-scale dioramas commemorating Leyasu Tokugawa's battles in 2015 and 2017 solidified his legacy. His exhibitions in Taiwan in 2020 and 2022 further establish him as a master of his craft.

JAMES GROMAN

James Groman, a 1986 graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art, has made a significant impact in toy design, illustration, and sculpting. His career includes iconic toy lines like Care Bears, Popples, and Madballs, as well as contributions to franchises like Star Wars and Marvel Comics. Operating his own studio, he collaborates globally, earning acclaim for creations like King Korpse and Kaiju Killer. His ventures into large vinyl figures, including collaborations with Mondo, showcase his versatility and creativity. With upcoming releases like Werewolf by Night and Stranger Things Demogorgon, James continues to captivate audiences with his dynamic designs and storytelling through toys.



JEFFERY ANGLES

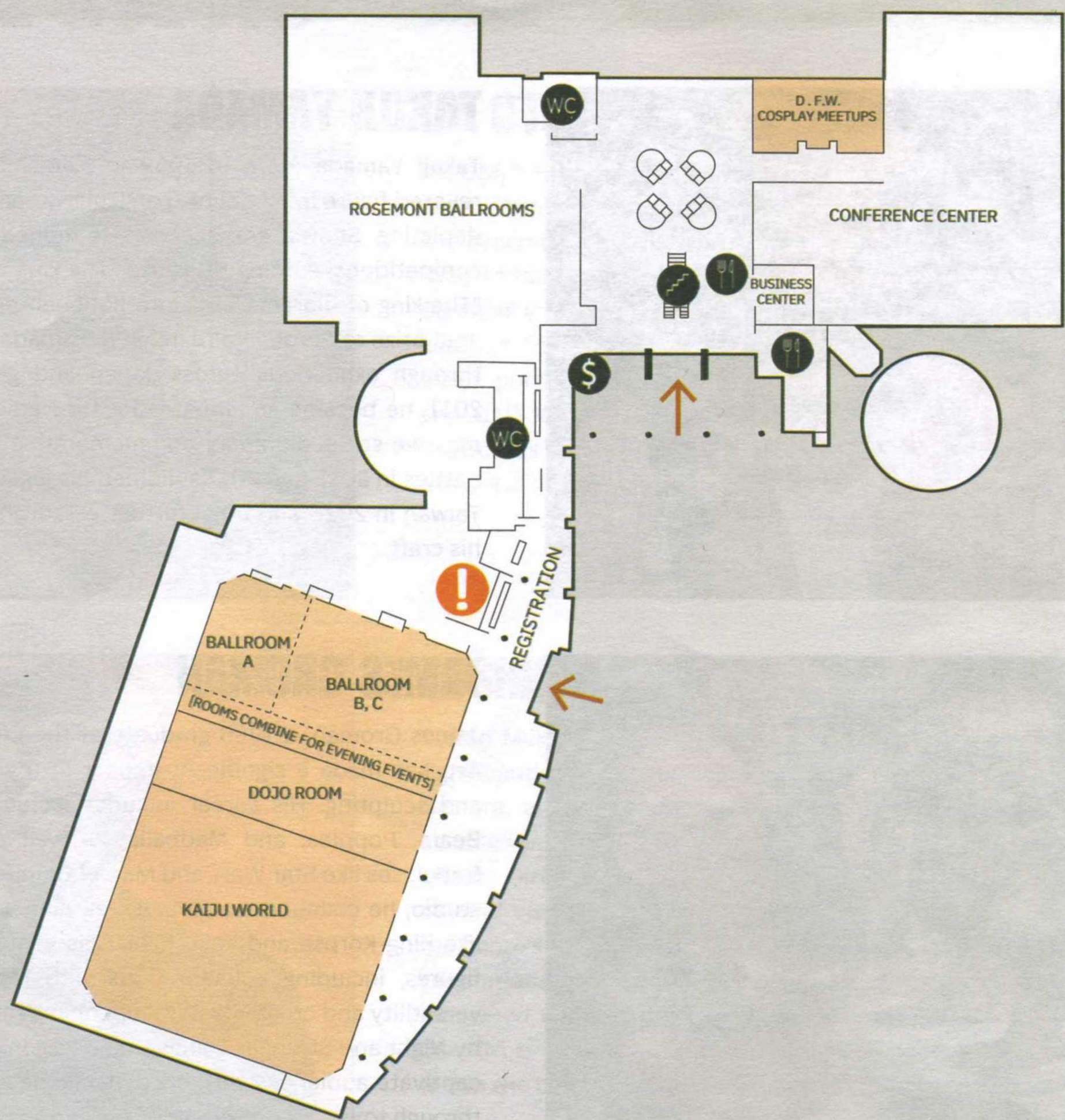
Jeffrey Angles is a professor of Japanese literature at Western Michigan University who has won numerous prizes for his work translating Japanese literature into English. One of his special interests is mystery, adventure, and science fiction writing, especially that related to monsters, ghosts, yokai, and kaiju. Among his most recent translations is the Godzilla & Godzilla Raids Again (University of Minnesota Press, 2023), written in 1955 by Shigeru Kayama, the same science fiction author who wrote the first draft of the screenplays for the first two Shōwa-era Godzilla films. He has recently completed a forthcoming translation of the novel The Luminous Fairies and Mothra, co-authored by Shin'ichi Nakayama, Takehiko Fukunaga, and Yoshie Hotta.

MAPS

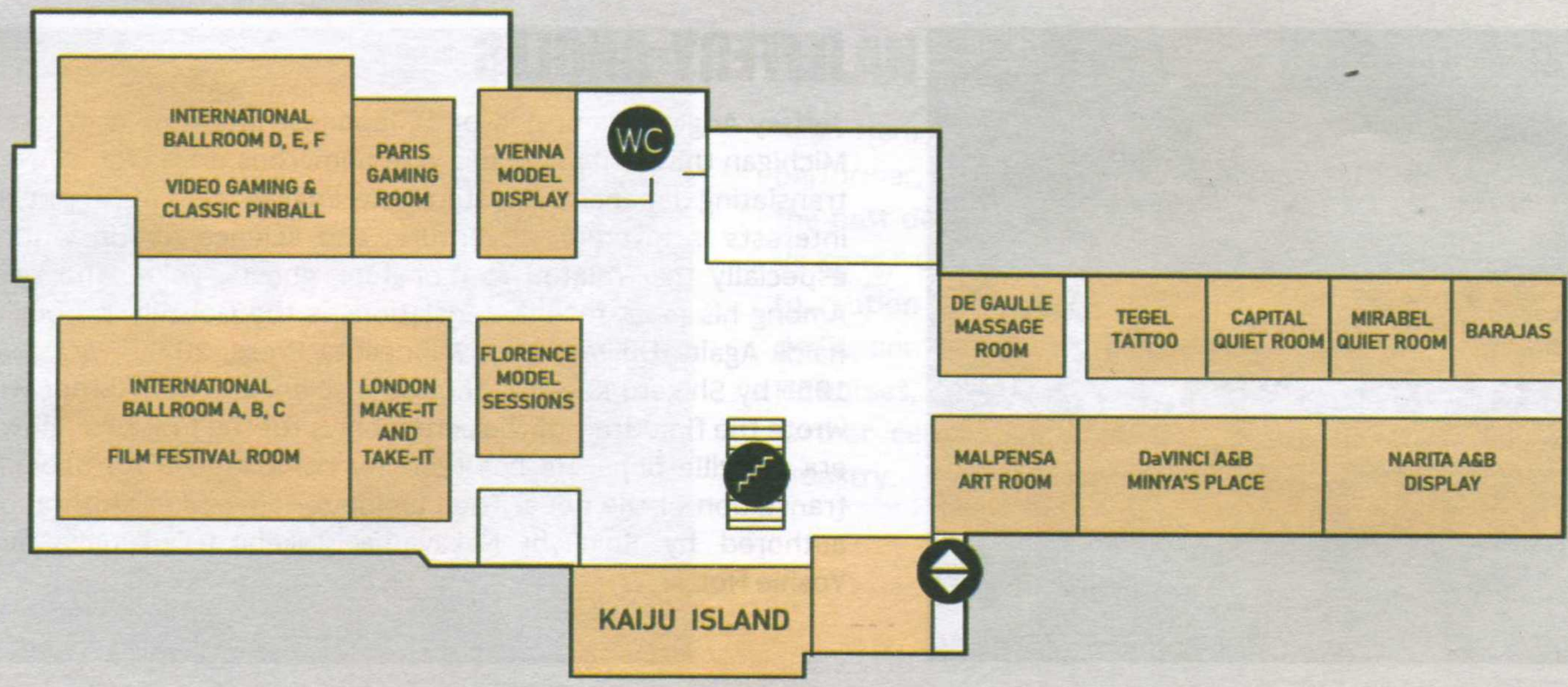
Entry Level

Key

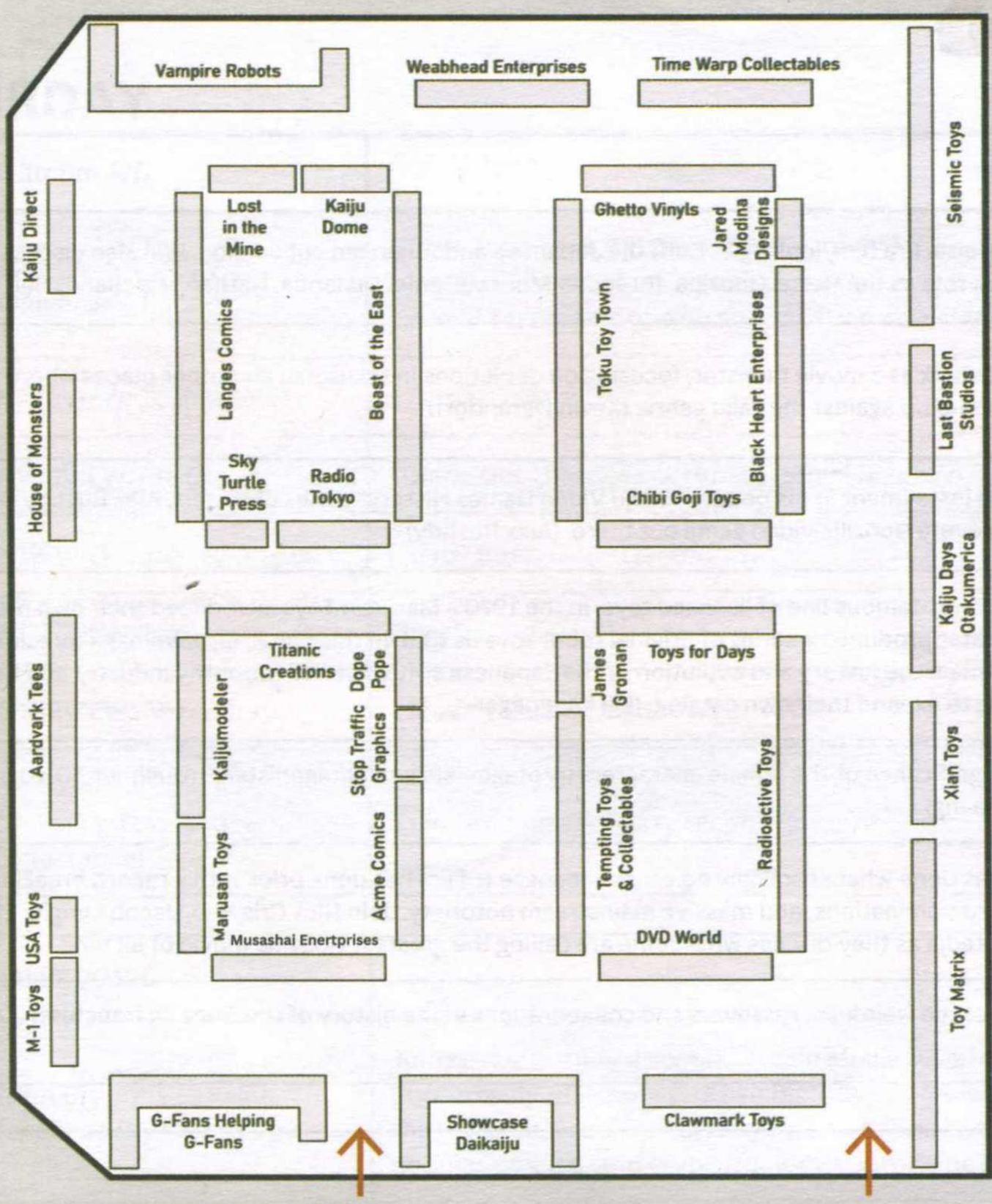
- WC Restrooms
- Food
- Stairs
- Elevators
- $ ATM



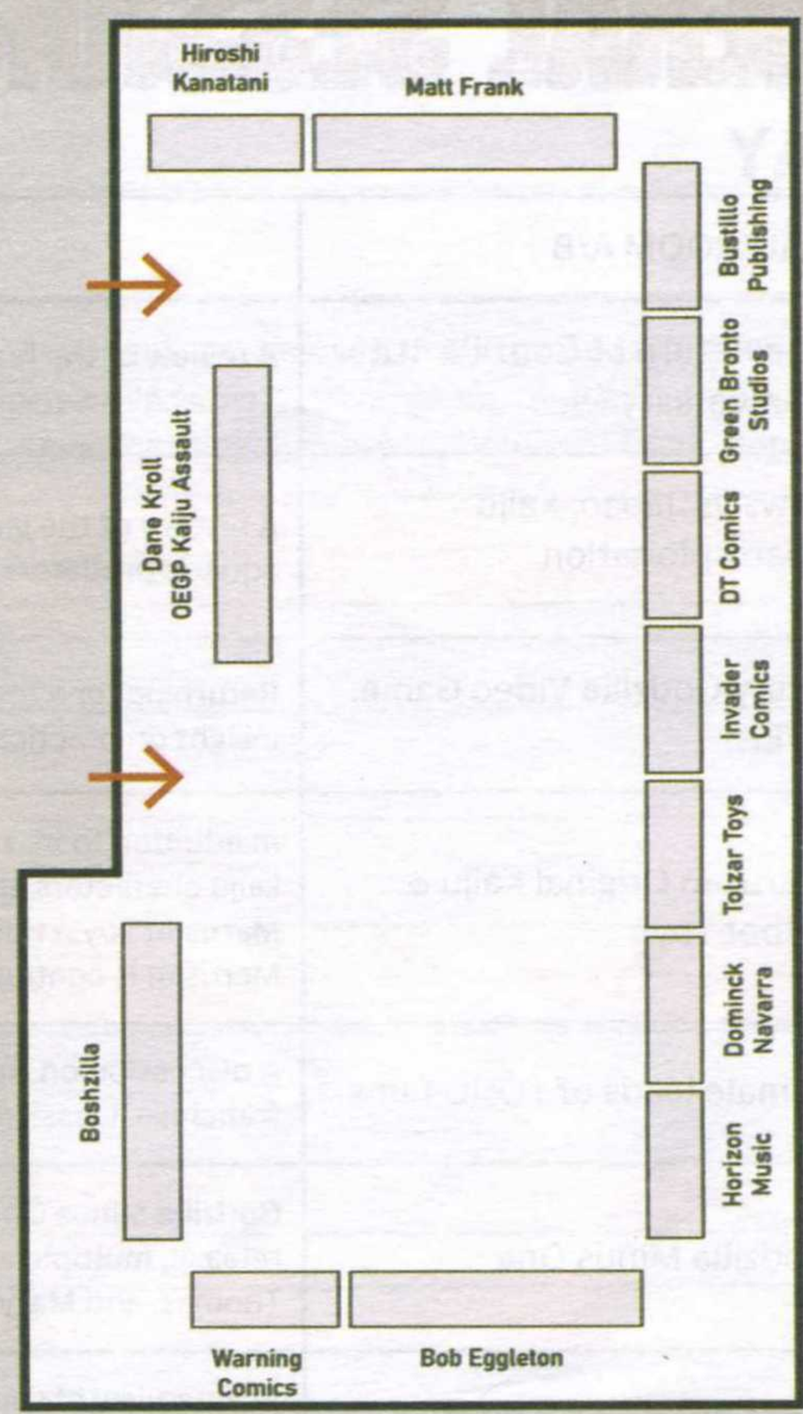
International Level (-1)



KAIJU WORLD



KAIJU ISLAND



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FOR THE FANS

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GENERAL SESSIONS

FRIDAY

TIME	BALLROOM A/B	
10 AM	The Return of Godzilla 40th Anniversary	A review of the first Heisei Era film, looking at both the Japanese and American cut version. Will also discuss Kenpachiro Satsuma's role as the Heisei Godzilla. (Brendan Morley, Daniel DiManna, Nathan Marchand, Neil Riebe)
11 AM	Jaws vs Japan: Kaiju Sharksploitation	A history of the giant shark as a movie monster, focusing on depictions in tokusatsu and other places where these aquatic predators chomp up against the kaiju genre. (Kevin Derendorf)
12 PM	Every Godzilla Video Game... EVER	Returning for a fourth installment in his popular "Kaiju Video Games History" series of panels, Alex Rushdy provides insight on practically every Godzilla video game out there. (Alex Rushdy)
1 PM	Marusan Original Kaiju & Robot Toys	In addition to its +F5world-famous line of licensed toys, in the 1970's Marusan Toys introduced their own original kaiju characters and later produced a series of original robot toys as well. In this panel, Eiji Kaminaga (president of Marusan Toys) will explain the history and evolution of the Japanese soft vinyl and robot toy industry and how Marusan is continuing to expand their own catalog. (Eiji Kaminaga)
2 PM	Female leads of TOHO films	A discussion on the significance of the female characters (protagonists and antagonists) throughout TOHO's Godzilla franchise. (Jessica Tseang)
3 PM	Godzilla Minus One	Godzilla Minus One has done what seemingly no other Japanese G-Film has done prior with a record breaking release, multiple award nominations, and massive mainstream notoriety. Join Nick Crispino, Jacob Lyngle, Elijah Thomas, and Mary Sutedja as they discuss what some are calling the greatest Godzilla movie of all time.
4 PM	Godzilla vs...wait, who?	An overview of some of the weirdest crossovers and collaborations in the history of the Godzilla franchise. (Kevin Derendorf)

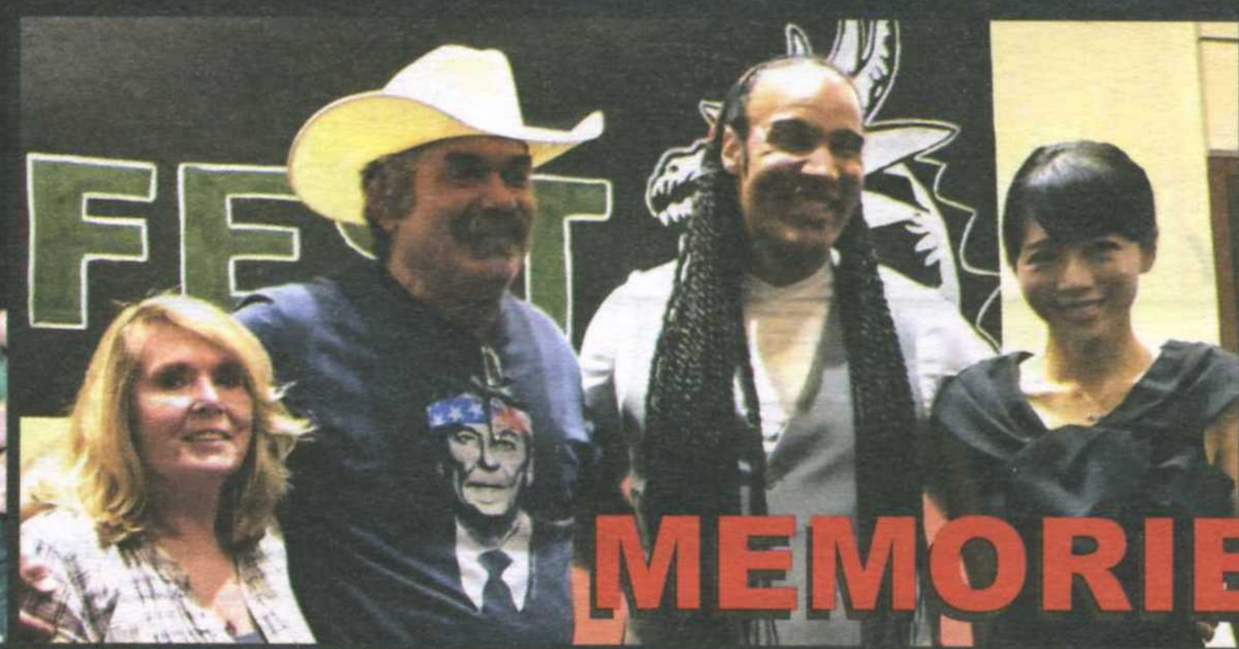
TIME	BALLROOM C	
10 AM	Ultraman In America	The Sky Turtle Nova editorial team will be joined by Tsuburaya executives to unveil plans for the future of Ultraman in America. (Steve Smith)
11 AM	Ghidorah the Three-Headed Monster: 60th Anniversary	Celebrating 60 years of King Ghidorah, with behind the scenes and special effects info to bring the kaiju in this film to life. (Kevin Horn)
12 PM	The Islands Of Godzilla	Buckle up as we navigate the turbulent seas, uncover the mysteries of the islands that birthed Godzilla, like Bikini Atoll and delve deep into the historical background behind these islands, including film details from Godzilla Minus One.Get ready for a monster-sized adventure as we discuss the legacy of these islands. (Nicholas Huber, Daniel Meaney)
1 PM	60 Years of Dogora	Join Kyle Byrd, Matt Parmley and Kevin Derendorf of the Kaiju Transmissions Podcast for a 60th anniversary retrospective on Ishiro Honda's underrated film Dogora, the Space Monster. This panel is a discussion of the genesis, production, and legacy of everyone's favorite diamond-eating space jellyfish. (Kyle Byrd, Kevin Derendorf, Matt Parmley)
2 PM	50 Years of Godzilla vs Mechagodzilla	This year Godzilla's mechanical menace celebrates its 50th birthday, and not a bit of tarnish or rust! (Elijah Thomas, Daniel DiManna, Michael Hamilton, Matt Frank)
3 PM	Secrets of Japanese Sci-Fi Scripts, 1956-1964	The censor records held at the New York State Archives include dialogue transcripts and shot lists for 13 Japanese sci-fi films that played in the state from 1956 to 1964, including the first four Godzilla films. This panel presents an analysis of these documents, revealing unexpected translations, dialogue missing from home video releases, hilarious misspellings ("Modra"?), and even an entire dub which has gone unheard for decades. (Michael Callari)
4 PM	G-PARDY Kids edition	This kaiju quiz has been designed especially for kids! The crowned 2024 Kid's Champion will be awarded a mini trophy they can keep. For those interested in entering, be sure to arrive on time to gain highest marks on the qualifying entry pre-quiz, as only three players will be able to compete for this title. For players ages 12 & under only. (Aaron Roberson)

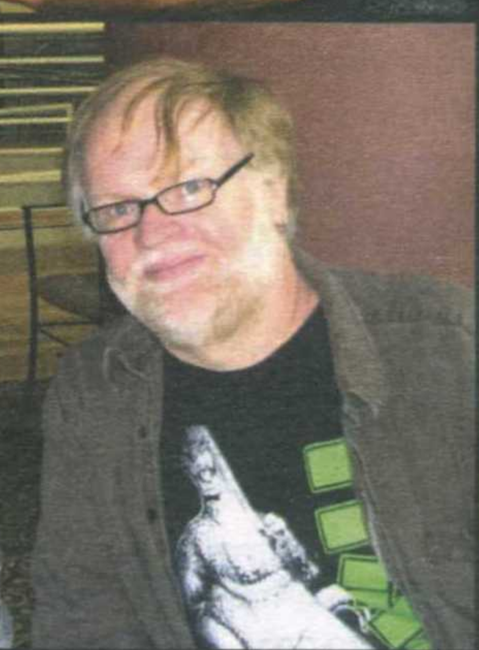
SATURDAY

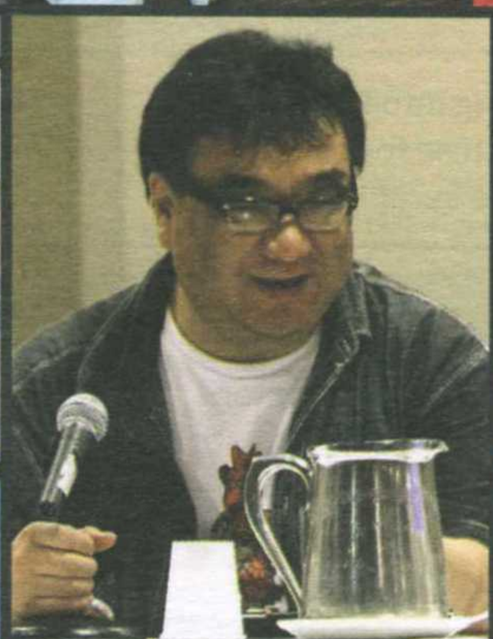
Time	Ballroom A/B	
10 AM	Godzilla vs. Mothra Anniversary Panel	1964's Mothra vs. Godzilla remains one of the most acclaimed and beloved of all the Godzilla sequels. Join a panel of diehard fans and historians as they break down the history, filmmaking, thematic depth, and pure fun that makes this film so special. (Daniel DiManna, Kevin Horn, Billy DuBose, Dominic Lopez, Hope Boyer)
11 AM	INTERVIEW: Toshio Miike	(Jessica Tseang)
12 PM	INTERVIEW: Rie Ota	(Diane Dougherty, Nick Huber, Daniel Meaney)
1 PM	INTERVIEW: Jeffrey Angles	(Joyce Boss, Kevin Derendorf)
2 PM	INTERVIEW: Takuji Yamada	(Jacob Lyngle)
3 PM	INTERVIEW: Alan Henry	(Jessica Tseang, Martin Arlt)
4 PM	Jim Groman: 35 Yrs Designing Toys and Collectables	(Jim Groman and Terry Webb)

Time	BALLROOM C	
10 AM	From Cryptids to Kaiju: Japanese Cryptozoology	Join cultural studies scholar Justin Mullis for a look at the history of Japanese cryptozoology (the study of purportedly real monsters like Bigfoot and Nessie). How well do you know Japan's homegrown cryptids like the Hibagon, Tsuchinoko, Ningen, and Kappa? Learn about these monsters, where to find them in Japanese popular culture, and cryptozoology's surprising influence on the kaiju genre. (Justin Mullis)
11 AM	The Kaiju Writer's Panel	Artists, modelers, and filmmakers all have a place at G-FEST, and this is where the writers congregate! Nathan Marchand (co-author of Destroyer, creator of The Monster Island Film Vault podcast) and Daniel DiManna (Godzilla Novelization Project) lead a Q&A panel with fellow kaiju writers Neil Riebe (Gilgamo vs Super Allosaurus), Donny Winter (Feats of Alchemy), and Dane Kroll (Realm of Goryo series) that is sure to answer your (atomic) burning questions about the craft and business of writing. (Nathan Marchand, Daniel DiManna, Neil Riebe, Donny Winter, Dane Kroll)
12 PM	Space Godzilla Behind the Scenes	A 30th anniversay celebration of Godzilla's 30th anniversary film, which introduced the bizarre but popular Space Godzilla. This panel will include behind the scenes video and fun facts. (Kevin Horn)
1 PM	Creating Original Kaiju	In a genre dominated by a fire breathing lizard, how do you create something new? Join Dane G. Kroll, author of the Realm of Goryo series, and the creators of Kaiju Assault Card Game in a discussion about the creative process of adding new and exciting Kaiju into pop culture. (Dane Kroll)
2 PM	Drawing Monsters with Matt and Hiroshi	Join fan-favorite kaiju artists Matt Frank and Hiroshi Kanatani in an interactive panel as they take audience requests to draw monsters! (Matt Frank, Hiroshi Kanatani)
3 PM	Getting into the Ultraman Franchise for new Fans Nicole Seraphita	The Ultraman franchise can be daunting for new fans, with over 57 years of TV shows, anime, merch, and more to take in. We will discuss the basics of the Ultraman franchise, its characters, and themes, as well as the best places for people to start with no experience with the Giant of Light. (Nicole Seraphita)
4 PM	Kaiju Kingdom Podcast: Godzilla/Kong creators	Jessica Tseang and Chris Eaton discuss with Jared Krichesvsky, (concept artist for Legendary's Kong, Godzilla, Shimu, Skarr King), and Brian Buccelleto (writer) / Christian Duce (artist) of DC Comics' Justice League vs Godzilla vs. Kong their own unique approaches to these classic characters, and the big year for our two favorite kaiju. (Jessica Tseang, Chris Eaton)

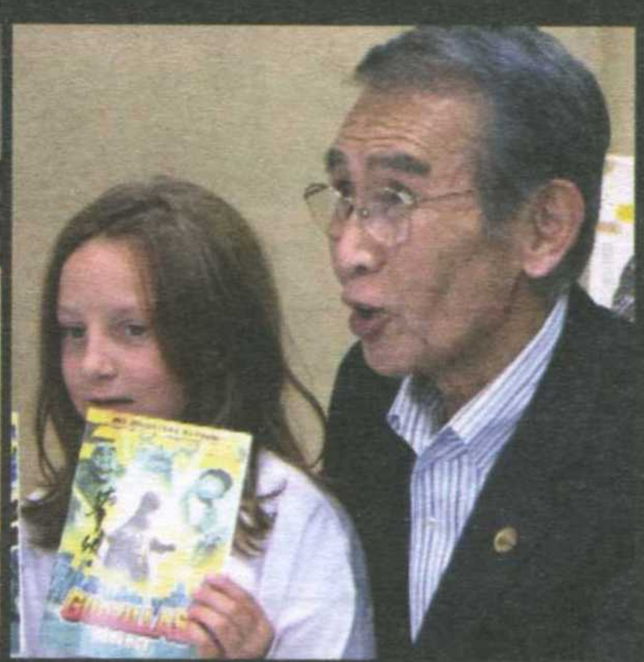
MEMORIES OF

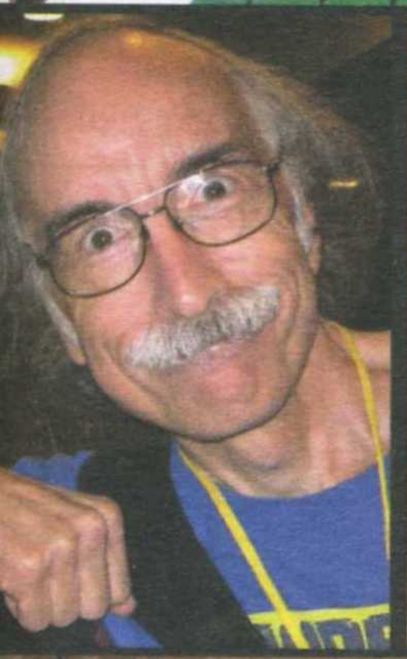


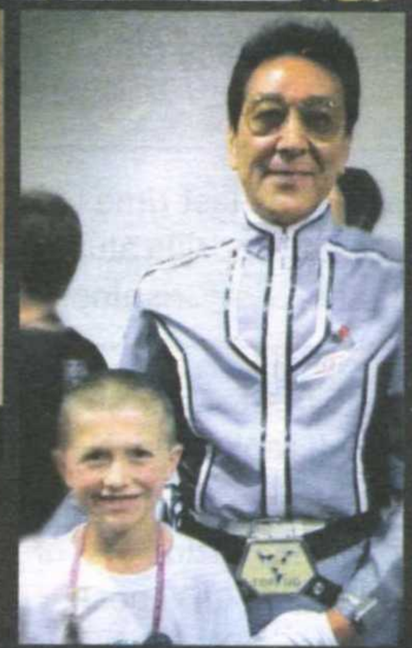




G-FESTs PAST!







SUNDAY

Time	Ballroom A/B	
10 AM	G-PARDY	For players ages 13 and older comes the classic kaiju quiz game! All would-be contestants must arrive 30 minutes early to challenge the radioactive fallout of a pre-entry quiz. Top three scorers will arise for a battle of monster knowledge that will determine the new monarch of kaiju quizzes. (Aaron Roberson)
11 AM	Kaiju Music Theory: "Godzilla" 1954–2024	A music theorist breaks down of the main themes of the Godzilla franchise, ranging from Akira Ifukube's stunning original work to today. (Ryan X. Messcher)
12 PM	A Tribute to Kenpachiro Satsuma	In 2023, we lost Kenpachiro Satsuma, a longtime friend of G-FEST. He began performing in Godzilla films in the Showa Era, portraying key villains like Hedorah and Gigan, before performing as Godzilla himself throughout the Heisei Era. Come help our panelists remember this special friend.
1 PM	The MonsterVerse: 10 Years Later	In 2014, Legendary and Warner Bros. reintroduced the King of the Monsters to Western audiences with “Godzilla" (2014). After seeing massive success at the box office, they took it a step further with a shared cinematic universe featuring Kong and a full roster of original and familiar kaiju. Panelists breakdown the franchise’s history, give their personal opinions on past instalments and their hopes for the future of the increasingly popular Monsterverse. (Nick Crispino, Scrooge Jones, John Sheola, Ramone Flores)
2 PM	The Storytelling of Godzilla: Minus One	Godzilla fans agree that Minus One is one of the greatest installments of all time. Why did it work so well? Award-winning screenwriter and author Thomas A. Fowler explores the storytelling of G-1. The characters we loved, the themes that resonated, and the emotional moments that made us cry, shout, and cheer all through an incredible Kaiju film! (Thomas Fowler, Sam Khushal, Nathaniel Steitz, Martin Felshman, Luke Flip)
3 PM	Godzilla Turns 70	Our reason for gathering at G-FEST every year began 70 years ago with the release of the first Godzilla film, Gojira, in Japan. Come hear a celebration of that first film's accomplishments and legacy. (Kevin Horn, Jeffrey Angles, Daniel DiManna, Nathan Marchand, Elijah Thomas)
4 PM	Kaiju Konfessions	It's time to pack up G-FEST for another year. Join the celebration of Kaiju song and dance! What's a monster movie without a catchy tune? It's time to participate in the fun! Let's SAVE THE EARTH!!! (Stan Hyde)

Time	BALLROOM C	
10 AM	Soft Vinyl Toys (Sofubi) 101	Before SHMA, before X-plus, before Bandai, there was soft vinyl. A classic method of toy production that continues to this day. Learn about the history and impact of this traditional style of toy making from a toy maker himself: Alex Rushdy of Seismic Toys! (Alex Rushdy)
11 AM	Raising Kids with Godzilla	Fandom thrives when parents pass their passion on to their kids. This panel will be a place for people to share their experiences with introducing their children to Godzilla and other kaiju. Highlights include dealing with fear, understanding real vs. non-real threats, and potentially other inquisitive mind questions. (John Ellis, Brandon Kirkman, Thomas Fowler)
12 PM	When Dinosaur Comics Ruled the Earth	Dinosaurs and ancient monsters are more than just movie stars; they’ve also made a splash in the world of comics! Join the dino fun and dive into the world of paleo storytelling from “Age of Reptiles” to “Xenozoic” and everything in between! (Greg Noneman, Danny DiManna, Samuel Iller, Robert Monsarrat)
1 PM	Radioactive Radio - Vintage Kaiju Audio Ads!	Take a trip back in time and enjoy rare radio ads from classic kaiju films - with added visuals! (Nigel Dreiner, Jacob Lyngle)
2 PM	Godzilla: Final Wars - 20 Years of Monster Mayhem	20 years ago, Godzilla: Final Wars was released. It marked the last time traditional tokusatsu effects were used in the Godzilla franchise and the final appearances of Godzilla alumni actors, Akira Takarada, Kumi Mizuno, and Kenji Sahara. (Elijah Thomas, Daniel DiManna, Nick Crispino, Billy DuBose, Jacob Lyngle)
3 PM	American Godzilla Fandom in the ‘70's and ‘80s	Join us for a nostalgic review of Godzilla media in the US in the 1970s and 1980s, an era of movies on TV, theatrical releases, merchandise, comics, and cartoons. (Frank Judd, Neil Riebe)
4 PM	G-FAN & G-TOUR	The editor of G-FAN, J.D. Lees, will discuss the future of the fanzine and answer questions from the audience. This fall's G-TOUR will also be a topic of discussion. (JD Lees)

FILM FESTIVAL

FRIDAY

9:00 AM - Gamera vs Zigra Director: Ryuta Tasaki

10:30 AM - The Story Of Hong Gil-Dong Director: Shin Dong-heon
A feature length animated classic Korean film.

11:36 AM - Lake Merritt Monster Director: Benjamin MulHolland
An Oakland teenager named Ollie and his friends must hunt down a monster lurking in Lake Merritt that is responsible for his mother's disappearance.

12:00 PM - Monster Seafood Wars Director: Minoru Kawasaki
Yuta, a young master at the Tsukiji Fish Market, accidentally drops his meal of mixed seafood into the Sumida River. Later a gigantic mutated squid monster arises from the depths and begins to wreak havoc upon an awe-stricken Tokyo.

1:30 PM - BigJackFilms The Movie Director: Jack Buchanan

3:40 PM - Space Beast Barrigular Director: Takashi Iwamura

4:00 PM - Space Monster Wangmagwi Director: Kwon Hyeok-jin
Aliens from another world seeking the conquest of Earth invade with flying saucers. They unleash a monster called Wang Ma Gwi, who destroys everything in its path with a death ray.

5:30 PM - Kaiju Glam Metal Shark Attack Director: Brett Kelly

7:00 PM - Ape vs. Monster Director: Daniel Lusko
An ape, lost in space, crash-lands back to Earth. The vessel oozes a sludge that triggers massive growth in both the ape, as well as a passing Gila monster.

8:30 PM - Ape vs Mecha-Ape Director: Marc Gottlieb
Recognizing the power of its captive giant Ape, the military makes its own battle-ready A.I., Mecha Ape.

10:00 PM - Megalodon Director: James Thomas

11:30 PM - The Whale God Director: Tokuzo Tanaka
A fishing village is terrorized by a giant whale, and the fishermen are determined to kill it. A Japanese variation of the "Moby Dick" story.

SATURDAY

9:00 AM - Ultraman 4K

10:00 AM - Ultraman: The Adventure Begins
Director: Mitsuo Kusakabe
Prehistoric fossils are transformed into a monstrous yokai that threatens Tokyo with destruction. Look for DaiMajin among the cast of mythical creatures.

11:30 AM - The Great Yokai War: Guardians
Director: Takashi Miike
Aliens from another world seeking the conquest of Earth invade with flying saucers. They unleash a monster called Wang Ma Gwi, who destroys everything in its path with a death ray.

1:30 PM - Lake Merritt Monster Director: Benjamin MulHolland
An Oakland teenager named Ollie and his friends must hunt down a monster lurking in Lake Merritt that is responsible for his mother's disappearance.

2:00 PM - The Barbados Project
Director: Thomas Burke and Stockton Miller
A journalist in Barbados investigates a video that surfaced on social media claiming to show a giant, unidentified creature.

3:00 PM - Zone Fighter: S2 / E09 Director: Jake DeNunzio
Kaiju appear in the suburbs. Only Zone Fighter can save the day.

3:45 PM - The Lake Director: Lee Thongkham and Aqing Xu
A girl finds a strange egg and brings it back to her village, only to later realize it was from a monster.

5:30 PM - Super Legend God Hikoza Director: Minoru Kawasaki
Two scientists from an Ultra-spatial research center discover a mecha emitting an alarm signal:a monster sturgeon is approaching.

6:40 PM - Lights on

7:00 PM - Costume Parade Closed Circuit

10:00 PM - Bloodspawn
Director: Derek S. Campbell and David Rotan
A Frontier-era gang of misfits band together to battle an evil and ancient bloodthirsty hell beast of Native folklore in this retro homage to classic 80's creature features.

11:16 PM - Kings Fall Director: Asao Goto
A Japanese tokusatsu kaiju short film.

11:30 PM - Evie Director: Alexander von Hofmann
In a world decimated by nuclear war, where barbaric clans and genetically modified dinosaurs roam the countryside, a young girl Evie, must venture alone to a distant farmhouse to seek medical supplies for her dying father.

12:00 AM - Monster Mash (2024) Director: Jose Prendes

SUNDAY

9:00 AM - Dojo Studios Presents...
- War of the Colossal Beasts (2021)
- GFANTIS DEATHGAME (2022)
- Breaking News (2023)
- Breaking News 2 (2024)

10:00 AM - Ape x Mecha-Ape: New World Order
Director: Marc Gottlieb
Recognizing the power of its captive giant Ape, the military makes its own battle-ready A.I., Mecha Ape. But its first test goes horribly wrong.

11:30 AM - Gamera vs Gyaos
Director: Noriaki Yuasa and Shigeo Tanaka

1:00 PM - Awards Ceremony

2:00 PM - Video Contest Entries

4:00 PM - A Giant Collection of Shorts

- Snaggletooth Director: Scott Lister
Intergalactic Pirate Queen Zenobia attacks the planet Earth by awakening a giant-sized robotic creature and letting it loose on the city of Melbourne. Can the world be saved?

- Revive! Smile Rock Giant God
Director: Ryo Momota
Tokusatsu short film shot in Tamano City, Okayama Prefecture, Japan where the Niconico Rock resides.

- Daikaiju Bugon Director: Kiyotaka Taguchi
A mysterious phenomenon occurs in a hot spring in Beppu. It foreshadows the appearance of the legendary giant monster Bugon, a guardian deity who has been watching over Oita since ancient times.

- The Man In The Green Suit Director: John Goodwin
Will Gorgadon be the last of this kind?

IN-HOUSE TV

Kaiju TV will be running all weekend on not 1 but 2 channels (24 hours a day)!
You can tune in on channel 65 & 66.

THE G-FEST EXPERIENCE

MINYA'S PLACE

Calling Monster Island... It's an invitation to Minya's Place!
A special place for the youngest G-fans (12 and under, please) to make kaiju-themed crafts to take home.

The location is the DaVinci Room (International Level) on Friday and Saturday from 9am to 5pm. Please note that Minya's Place is not intended to be a "drop-off" daycare or babysitting service. All attending youngsters are expected to be supervised and assisted by the adult that brought them.

P.S. Don't miss Allan Henry doing a very special reading of his book, "Toni Mahoni Finds a New Home," on Friday at 2 PM

GAMING

Tabletop gaming is once again taking place in the Paris Room this year. Formal instruction will be offered in two different games, Kaiju Assault and Godzilla Risk. In addition, a variety of other kaiju and Godzilla-related games (Godzilla Monopoly, Godzilla Jenga, Kaiju Memory Game, etc.) will be available for play by self-organized groups.

The gaming room will be open all day every day of G-FEST for casual play, even during the scheduled instructional sessions. (The schedule is online and posted in the room daily)
Come on in and enjoy the world of Godzilla Gaming!

MECHA-G ARCADE

Video game fanatics of all ages will find Godzilla Heaven in the Mecha-G arcade. Not only is there an organized video game tournament, but there's loads of free play time for both one-on-one and team battles. The arcade boasts an amazing variety of systems for playing different Godzilla games, from the Classic originals to the latest releases.

Galloping Ghost Arcade will be there with some very special video game cabinets, some all the way from Japan!

Check the schedule for room hours and tournament times.

COSPLAY MEET UPS

A new addition to G-FEST, we're excited to organize cosplay meetups! Get to know other kaiju and tokusatsu cosplayers in the DFW room on Friday and Saturday. We will be taking group photos, talking "shop" about our costumes, and will have special door prizes! Prizes are limited to those in costume, so bring out your best!

CONTESTS

ART CONTEST: Bring art for display to the Malpensa Room (International Level). Fill in the form provided by the volunteer on duty. Our art experts will judge the work on Saturday night, winners will be at the awards ceremony Sunday afternoon.

COSTUME PARADE: This years costume parade Takes place in the Grand Ballroom A/B/C Saturday evening. Check online for entry details.

G-PARDY!
(Friday 4 PM): G-PARDY Kids edition for 12 and under
(Sunday 10 AM): With just one adult G-Pardy! game this year, all would-be contestants must arrive 30 minutes early to qualify. For players ages 13 and older comes the classic kaiju quiz game!

MODEL CONTEST: See model show section.

VIDEO CONTEST: An assortment of fascinating fan-made videos will be screened during the Film Festival (International Ballroom A/B/C.)

DOJO STUDIOS

The Dojo Room is located in Grand Ballroom D on the Entry Level, next to the dealer's room. Dojo Studios started as an extension of the costume thread, demonstrating Tokusatsu filming methods (Japanese live-action filming with practical effects) that gave us our favorite superheroes like Godzilla, Ultraman, and Kamen Rider. Come see our film set, suit actors, and maybe catch a few scenes from this year's production, YOKAIJU: THE RETURN OF GFANTIS!

OPEN WORKSHOP
Costumers are invited to store and finish their suits for the costume parade in the work area of the Dojo Room any time the room is open to the public. There are also plenty of experienced suit-builders on hand to offer help and advice. This room is locked and secure when not attended, but G-FEST volunteers and staff are not responsible for your suits. Please note that certain spray materials and adhesives are not permitted to be used inside the hotel.

MODELING THREAD

There are two great ways interested model builders can get involved in G-FEST events, learning about model building and showcasing their work. Model panels run from Friday to Sunday, with presentations on how to build and paint models. Professional sculptors and model builders will present panels on sculpting, creating dioramas, and opportunities for model builders. Bring your imagination and be prepared to ask questions not just about what our panelists suggest, but also about your plans for future projects that you want to discuss and share with the panelists and other modellers. We want to keep building the Kaiju modeller community!

THE BIGGEST LITTLE GIANT REPTILE SHOW ON EARTH!!!

Our Model show and contest runs from Friday night until Sunday morning. Entries usually consist of, vinyl, resin, or styrene models but other media are acceptable (paper, metal, et cetera) - as are original sculpts. Re-posed and re-painted toys are also allowed, so long as enough work has been done to them that craftsmanship can be judged.

Work is judged in scratch built (original sculpts and kits), diorama, and standalone categories.

There is a junior category 17 years and younger.

YOUNG MODELLERS MAKE AND TAKE

Again this year with the kind participation of Mr. George Stephenson and Black Heart Enterprises we are featuring resin busts of Mothra and Godzilla to help develop people's painting skills. (Please! This event is organized for the young especially, and those who who want to learn to paint! The busts are also available (for a slightly higher price) at the Black Heart Enterprises table in the Dealer's room. Thanks!

SATURDAY

We're looking for youngsters (and the young at heart) who want to learn to model and paint Godzilla! There are two sessions so that we can hopefully have enough spaces for everyone. Thanks to Black Heart Enterprises which is offering their MicroMania busts of kaiju at reduced prices to folks who want to participate in the MAKE IT AND TAKE IT classes.

Saturday 12:00 - 1:00

Make and Take busts on sale for afternoon sessions

SESSION ONE 1:00 - 2:30

The room will be closed for re-set for half an hour between 2:30 and 3:00 for clean-up.

SESSION TWO 3:00 - 4:30

G-FANS HELPING G-FANS

The G-FEST fundraising drive, G-fans Helping G-fans, continues. Many G-fans have donated items which will be sold during the convention by silent auction. The items will be on view at the G-fans Helping G-fans table in the Vendor Room. There are also raffle tickets for free hotel stays and other prizes. Money raised goes to children with autism and other charitable causes that impact our G-fan community.

During times of crisis such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and the Fukushima disaster, G-Fans Helping G-Fans extended its reach, collaborating with the International Chapter of the Red Cross to aid our Japanese friends in need.

Since its inception, G-Fans Helping G-Fans has made a significant impact:

- Assisting families facing various challenges, with utmost respect for privacy.
- Supporting causes and programs dedicated to aiding children and families in Japan.
- Advocating for the uniqueness of children with developmental challenges.
- Providing financial aid to families affected by the loss of individuals who left a lasting impression on our community.

SCAVENGER HUNT

The Photo Scavenger Hunt, organized and staged by Peter Snowdon, is fun way to explore G-FEST and win cool prizes by seeking out a variety of kaiju-themed costumes, artwork, memorabilia, and more! All you need to play is a camera. The challenge is to complete a checklist as fast as possible by taking a photo with each item on the list. The items can include such things as a photo with a certain type of Bandai toy or a photo with Gfantis. Players may join the hunt at any time and will receive the checklist with their starting time on it when they come to the booth. At the end of the hunt, prizes are awarded based on speed, accuracy, and creativity! It all begins Saturday at 1:00 PM in the International Ballroom D/ E/F (the Arcade), with prizes awarded at 4:00 PM (same location).

MOVIES AT THE PICKWICK

G-FEST has a history of bringing to western G-fans films they otherwise wouldn't have a chance to see on the big screen, including North American theatrical premieres of Gamera 3, Godzilla ('54), Godzilla vs Destroyah, Son of Godzilla, Rebirth of Mothra 3, Godzilla vs Megaguirus, and many others.

Movies are shown at the Pickwick Theater, 5 South Prospect, Park Ridge, IL, 60068. Before the convention, on July 11th, there's an afternoon double bill;

THURSDAY AFTERNOON DOUBLE FEATURE:
1 PM - Mothra vs. Godzilla
3 PM - Godzilla vs. Mechagodzilla

THURSDAY EVENING DOUBLE FEATURE:
7 PM - The Return of Godzilla
9 PM - Godzilla vs Space Godzilla

FRIDAY EVENING:
10:30 PM - Godzilla Final Wars

SATURDAY EVENING:
10:30 PM - Godzilla X Kong: The New Empire

Tickets are available at the Pickwick theatre or on their website:
https://www.pickwicktheatre.com/

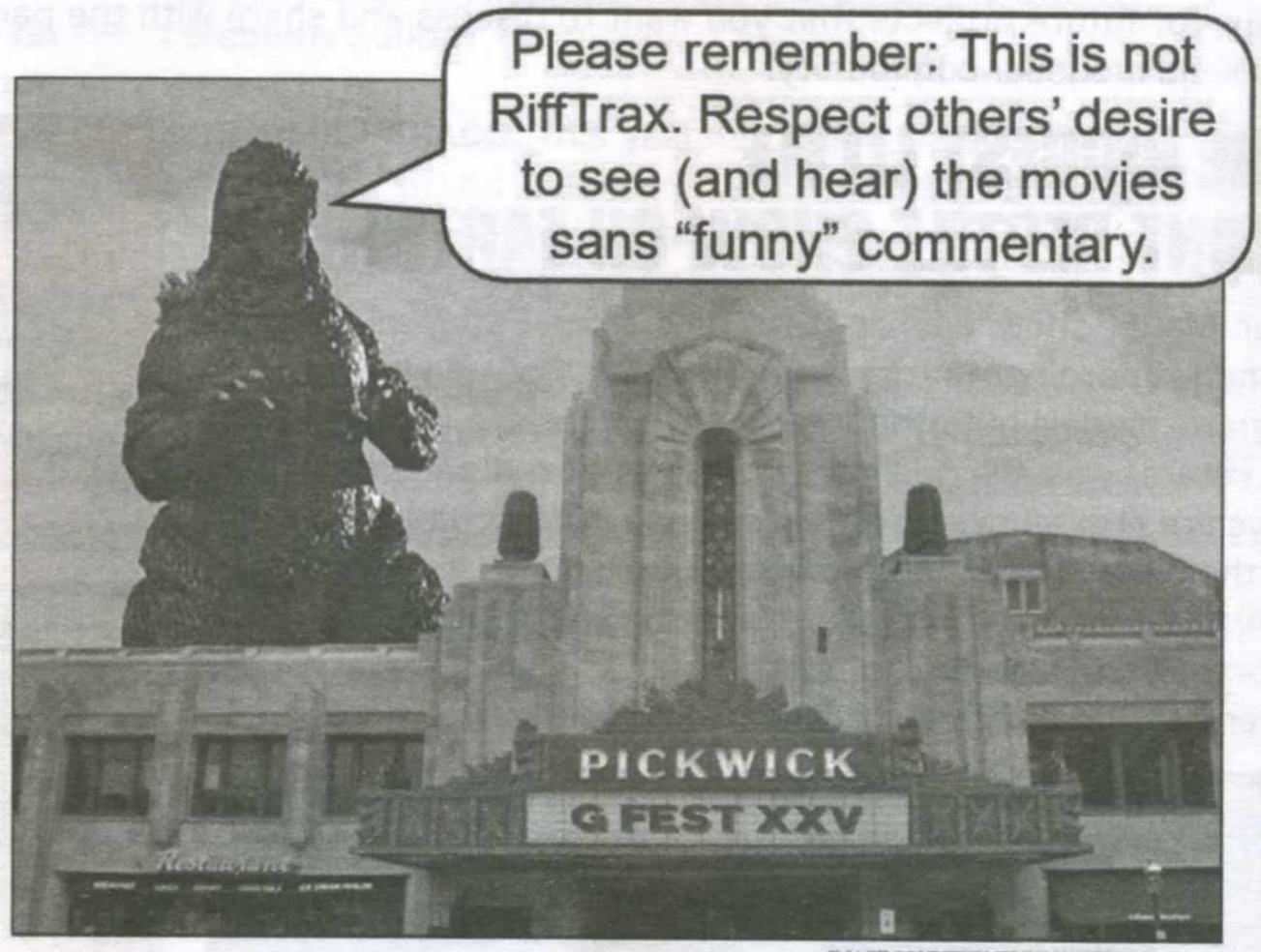


IMAGE COURTESY JERRY HARRISON

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MOTHRA VS GODZILLA

(60th anniversary presentation) Widely considered one of the greatest Godzilla movies, 1964's "Mothra vs Godzilla" (released in the West as "Godzilla vs The Thing") brings together two of Toho's most popular kaiju in a series of exciting and well-staged battles. The film features strong performances by Akira Takarada, Yuriko Hoshi and Hiroshi Koizumi, as well as the charming Emi and Yumi Ito (a.k.a. The Peanuts). The score by Akira Ifukube is superb, and Eiji Tsuburaya's spfx are top-notch. A classic! (Thursday, 1:00 PM)

GODZILLA VS MECHAGODZILLA

(50th anniversary presentation) For Godzilla's 20th year in 1974, Toho celebrated by creating a robotic counterpart to their now-heroic kaiju king. MG has gone on to become one of the most popular and recognizable of the Japanese monsters. "G vs MG" brings back the iconic actor Akihiko Hirata (Dr. Serizawa in G '54), as well as G-series stalwarts Hiroshi Koizumi and Kenji Sahara. The score by Masaru Sato is memorably energetic, and Teruyoshi Nakano's spfx are wonderfully explosive. First time at the Pickwick! (Thursday, 3:00 PM)

THE RETURN OF GODZILLA

(40th anniversary presentation) With the Showa Series of G-films having run its course, Toho may have originated the concept of "rebooting" by returning Godzilla to his serious roots in 1984. The ambitious production boasts a cast headed by Yosuke Natsuki and Yasuko Sawaguchi, and a rumbling soundtrack by Reijiro Koroku. Teruyoshi Nakano is at the top of his game on spfx, and the film marks the late Ken Satsuma's first of many appearances as Godzilla. A landmark film, first time at G-FEST! (Thursday, 7:00 PM)

GODZILLA vs SPACE GODZILLA

(30th anniversary presentation) The penultimate film in the Heisei Series has Godzilla facing off against a space-born version of... himself! Throw in the UNGCC's transforming mecha MOGERA, the adorable Little Godzilla, Fairy Mothra and the Cosmos, and a beautifully coiffed and ESP enhanced Miki Saegusa (Megumi Odaka)... What more could a G-fan ask for? From the Jupiter/Mars asteroid belt to Birth Island to Fukuoka city and its iconic tower, "G vs Space G" is one of Godzilla's greatest battles. (Friday, 10:30 PM)

GODZILLA FINAL WARS

(20th anniversary presentation) A monster and action-filled frenzy, director Ryuhei Kitamura's "GFW" pulled down the curtain on Godzilla's Millennium Series of movies in 2004. Paying homage to half a century of Godzilla, the film showcases series stars Akira Takarada, Kumi Mizuno and Kenji Sahara, plus a baker's dozen of Godzilla old foes and two new ones. Spfx director Eichi Asada gets full marks for his spfx that not only span the globe but the galaxy as well. Not seen on the Pickwick big screen for nearly 20 years! (Thursday, 9:00 PM)

GODZILLA X KONG: THE NEW EMPIRE

The latest from Legendary's Monsterverse series was a huge hit with audiences, out-performing expectations and bringing new fans into the fold. An extravaganza of action and spfx, Godzilla and King Kong have become the most successful box office team since Abbott and Costello. GxK's giant success has already jump-started plans for a follow-up. You've seen it with a general audience, now experience it on the Pickwick's giant screen in a theater packed with G-fans! (Saturday, 10:30 PM)

HISTORY OF G-FEST

In the summer of 1994, many of the widely-scattered contributors to G-FAN magazine decided it was time to meet face to face. A "Friends of G-FAN" meeting was organized for the Labor Day weekend at a Howard Johnson's outside Chicago, and attended by about twenty hardy souls. The sharing of experiences, Godzilla memories, and collectibles created an instant rapport, and a full-fledged convention was planned for the following year. This was the beginning of G-FEST and the convention has grown tremendously over the ensuing years.

Much more than just a dealer/autograph show, G-FEST has expanded with an array of activities for fans of all ages and interests. The Modeling Thread offers instruction (some of it hands-on) and an impressive display. The Costume Parade has given rise to a Tokusatsu Thread with actual filming of kaiju scenes and movies, allowing G-FEST attendees to "live the dream" of monster filmmaking. Videogaming in the Mecha-G Arcade keeps G-fans engaged in friendly combat all weekend, and there's a separate room devoted to tabletop gaming. The G-FEST Film Festival has added an international aspect to the convention, and other creative outlets include amateur video screenings, music videos, and a kaiju art display. The activity room called Minya's Place allows younger G-fans (and their parents) to participate in coloring, crafts, and other engaging pastimes, and there's even an annual photo scavenger hunt.

In recognition of special contributions made by individuals to the production and/or promotion of the Japanese monster genre, 1999 saw the introduction of The Mangled Skyscraper Award. In addition, two G-FAN Lifetime Achievement Awards have been awarded, to director/spfx master Shinji Higuchi in 2017, and actor Akira Takarada in 2019. More recently, in recognition of fan contributions, a G-fan Hall of Fame has been instituted, and three new inductees have been named each year beginning in 2014. A special plaque designed and created by sculptor Hiroshi Sagae is presented to each inductee.

G-FEST also raises funds for deserving causes under the banner "G-fans Helping G-fans." Thousands of dollars have been raised over the years, and benefited many causes including kids with autism, kids with disabilities, Japan earthquake relief, and more.

One of the hallmarks of G-FEST has always been its friendly and relaxed atmosphere. It is truly a convention staged by fans, for fans. G-FEST offers a weekend of kaiju toys, games, activities, contests, and camaraderie, a warm and welcoming experience where age is irrelevant. When it comes to Godzilla, we're all kids at heart.

PAST G-FAN HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Martin Arlt, The Baioa family, Tim Bean, Nicholas Cloutier, Allen A. Debus, John DeSentis, Tristan Domay, Diane Dougherty, Damon Foster, Matt Frank, Paul Gavins, Ed Godziszewski, Bill Gudmundson, Jeff Horne, Stan Hyde, Sean Linkenback, Sonoe Nakajima, Dave Nunes, Chris Oglio, Skip Peel, August Ragone, John Roberto, Steve Ryfle, Hiroshi Sagae, Andre Steele, Tom Tvrdik,Kyle Yount.

MANGLED SKY SCRAPER RECIPIENTS

1999 - Famous Monsters editor Forrest J Ackerman
2000 - Heisei G-Series spfx director Koichi Kawakita
2001 - JFFJ fanzine pioneer Greg Shoemaker
2002 - G-FEST co-founders J.D. Lees & Stan Hyde
2003 - Gamera creator and director Noriaki Yuasa
2004 - Godzilla spfx chief Teruyoshi Nakano
2005 - Super-fan turned film director Yoshikazu Ishii
2006 - Android M-11 actor Robert Scott Field
2007 - Western G-fandom pioneer Dino Don Glut
2008 - Mr. Godzilla Haruo Nakajima
2009 - Multi G-film actor Kenji Sahara
2010 - The Godfather of G-FEST actor Akira Takarada
2011 - Heisei Gamera spfx director Shinji Higuchi
2012 - The original Ultraman Bin Furuya
2013 - Kaiju suit maker Shinichi Wakasa
2014 - Super G-artist Bob Eggleton
2015 - G Millennium Series director Masaaki Tezuka
2016 - Ultra actress and producer Hiroko Sakurai
2017 - Three-time G-film composer Michiru Oshima
2018 - Suit actor Ken Satsuma, suit and prop maker Keizo Murase, and actress Megumi Odaka
2019 - GMK and Heisei Gamera director Shusuke Kaneko
2023 - Godzilla motion capture actor T.J. Storm
2024 – Spfx production designer Toshio Miike

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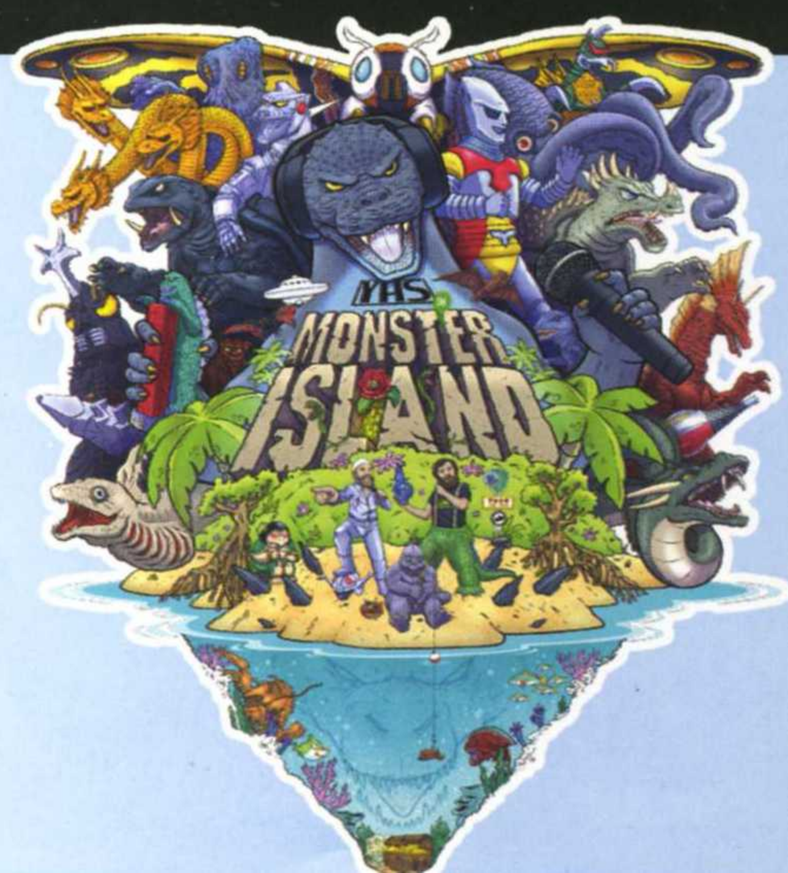

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